

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, May 26, 1893, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Beinn Bhreagh, C. B. Friday, May 28th, 1893. Dear Mabel:

Your note of May 21st, just received — also Mr. McCurdy's note concerning Gallaudet's reply — also your Father's note of May 22nd, about Gallaudet.

Mr. Hodges had a couple of stenographers at the New York Institution Anniversary. They took down Gallaudet's address verbatim.

I asked Mr. Hodges to send the stenographer's notes to Washington as soon as prepared — so that your father could see exactly what President Gallaudet said upon that occasion — before proceeding with the discussion of proposed change in Association matters. I must say the more I think of the matter the less I like it. My feeling is in favor of letting well alone — and limiting the Association to its original field of work. I do not think we can promote the teaching of speech to the deaf — so well by enlarging the scope of the Association — as by using the organization for that specific purpose alone.

The attempt to include everything — is too ambitious a scheme — and may defeat the original aim of the Association. It reminds me of Shakespeare's "Vaulting Ambition which o'er leaps itself, and falls on the other" and etc.

Wednesday the 24th, was the Queen's birthday. Several boat-loads of people celebrated the day — by coming to Beinn Bhreagh and examining our new house. It really is a very handsome house — and looks enormous.

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Mr. McInnis has advertised for tenders for construction of reservoir and drain. We will have the reservoir made at once, and will not definitely decide about drain until we have explored further and calculated cost.

Mr. Cunningham will put up the new barn on the shore in the marshy place. A deep drain out through it will, it is believed, dry it up.

Convenient place for barn and etc., — if marshy place is dried.

Mr. Ellie is keeping a record of the temperature of the water and the air.

Temperature of water at wharf was 43° when we came — and temperature rises every day. Today the water was warmer than the air. Water 49°F. Air 45°F.

Although I have walked a good deal since I came here — I have not suffered at all from perspiration! Even a walk to the top of the mountain produces no unpleasant amount of aqueous deposition upon the cutaneous tissue! Think the air must be dried than in Washington. Don't understand why I should perspire so much there and so little here.

I have not smoked since I arrived here — and strange to say — I experience no craving for the stimulating weed.

I hope to send you my weight record in a few days.

I hope Elsie will not forget the neglected spot of ground here which I have placed under her protection.

My darling — I am trying to write to you every day — but I am afraid telegrams would prove more satisfactory.

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I can only scribble a few notes. Is it worth while doing so? — Do you care for them? Shall I stop and only write when I feel like doing so? I send notes concerning results of experiments with vegetables.

Your loving husband, Alec. Mrs. A. G. Bell, 1331 Conn. Ave., Washington, D. C.

TENDERS will be received at Beinn Bhreagh. for digging.

There is a reservoir about fifty feet across and six feet deep and also a ditch nearly a mile in length, four feet deep and about three feet broad.

Tenders for whole or part to be handed in before June 3rd. Particulars to be had from

Angus McInnes, MANAGER.

May 26 ? 1893